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1910

PRINTED FOR THE MALONE SOCIETY BY
CHARLES WHITTINGHAM & CO.
AT THE CHISWICK
PRESS

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TOM TYLER AND
HIS WIFE

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Malone Society.

Oct. 1910.

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THE MALONE SOCIETY
REPRINTS [No. 18]
1910

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TOM TYLER AND HIS WIFE



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THE MALONE SOCIETY
REPRINTS [No. 18]
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PR
2411
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This reprint of *Tom Tyler and his Wife* has been prepared by G. C. Moore Smith and the General Editor jointly.

July 1910.

W. W. Greg.

THE old play or interlude of *Tom Tyler and his Wife* has come down to us in an edition printed in quarto in 1661. It bears neither printer's nor stationer's name, but from a booksellers' list usually found appended to extant copies it may be inferred that the play was published by Francis Kirkman. The quarto is printed in black-letter in a type about the size of modern Pica (20 ll. = 83 mm.), which is here, as usual, replaced by Small Pica, thin leaded. The late date explains the use of *j* and *u* initially and *u* medially, but a roman upper-case *J* is used, no such sort existing in black-letter. The ligatures for *oo* and *ee* (the first *e* accented) occasionally appear, but are disregarded in the reprint, as are also the frequent examples of a roman titling print, with which the printer eked out an upper case insufficient to meet the demands of the speakers' names. The quarto is by no means uncommon, copies being found in the British Museum, Bodleian, Dyce, Trinity College Cambridge, and other libraries. Of these the Douce copy in the Bodleian and the Capell copy at Trinity College have been collated throughout, while frequent reference has been made to the two copies preserved in the British Museum. So far as the text is concerned no variations beyond slight imperfections of the impression have been observed (see ll. 112, 510, 649 in list). The title of the Capell copy, however, is peculiar in making no mention of the booksellers' catalogue, whereas all the other copies mentioned above agree in inserting the words: 'Together, with an exact *Catalogue* of all the playes that were ever yet printed.' In this respect the present reprint follows the Capell copy, but photographic reproductions of both varieties have been included. The heading of the catalogue runs as follows: 'A True, perfect, and exact Catalogue of all the Comedies, Tragedies, Tragi-Come-

dies, Pastorals, Masques and Interludes, that were ever yet printed and published, till this present year 1661. all which you may either buy or sell at the several shops of *Nath. Brook* at the Angel in *Cornhil*, *Francis Kirkman* at the *John Fletchers Head*, on the Back-side of *St. Clements*, *Tho. Johnson* at the Golden Key in *St. Pauls Churchyard*, and *Henry Marsh* at the Princes Arms in *Chancery-lane* near *Fleetstreet*. 1661.' That Kirkman was the prime mover in this venture seems certain; he was not only foremost among London stationers in reprinting old plays about this date, but ten years later he issued a revised edition of this very Catalogue under his own name alone and with a preface signed by himself. The Catalogue is not included in the present reprint. Its interest is bibliographical rather than literary and it has already been edited along with several similar lists in a more appropriate place. It appears to have been an afterthought, and curiously enough the sheets seem to have been severely cut down before being added to copies of the play, with which in consequence they often fail to range.

The title-page of the quarto of *Tom Tyler* dated 1661 bears the words '*The second Impression*' and informs us that the play was '*Printed and Acted* about a hundred years ago.' Though nothing is now known concerning this earlier edition, there is no reason to doubt the statement, at any rate so far as it refers to the printing. The play is unquestionably an old one for which the printer must have had some early copy. Had his copy been manuscript he would certainly have advertised the piece as new to the press. Moreover the entry "*Tom tyler. C[omedy]*." occurs in Archer's catalogue of 1656. Kirkman's words imply that the original edition appeared somewhere about the middle of the sixteenth century.

The only bibliographer who has ever claimed direct knowledge of this edition is Chetwood who, in his *British Theatre* of 1750, has '*Tome Tylere* and his *Wyfe*, a passing merrie Interlude, 1598.' No weight whatever can be attached to this entry: the same date is added by Chetwood to a number of plays known to have been printed either earlier or later, and the spelling of the name must be regarded as most suspicious. Nevertheless the information has been freely copied by later bibliographers, and the date has actually been accepted by the editors of the *New English Dictionary*. One other conjecture only deserves mention; namely a note of Ritson's in his '*Ancient Songs and Ballads*' (1829, ii. 31). This runs: 'The following song [Tye the Mare, Tom boy] is particularly alluded to in the "passing merrie Interlude" of "Tom Tylere and his wyfe," first printed in 1578?' From this source the date 1578 has been copied by Collier and Ward, with the omission of Ritson's guarded query. But the words "passing merrie Interlude" show that the source of Ritson's information was Chetwood's entry, so that the date 1578 can hardly be anything but either a slip for 1598, or, more likely, an attempt to suggest a less improbable year.

The authorship of *Tom Tyler* is unknown. Winstanley ascribed it in the most confident manner to William Wager, the author of *The Longer thou Livest the more Fool thou Art*. Langbaine disbelieved the attribution, but nevertheless mentioned the piece under that author, whose name he accidentally gave as Wayer, an error perpetrated in the *Biographica Dramatica* and the *British Museum Catalogue*. The ascription hardly deserves discussion.

LIST OF IRREGULAR AND DOUBTFUL READINGS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 5. sport. (sport) | 350. beating; |
| 21. (<i>speaker's name</i> Desire.) | 364. speed. |
| 33. not (nat cf. l. 138) | 380. not, (nat, cf. l. 138) |
| 42. Aud | 382. shoulb |
| 45. D 1 | 387. greeking? (gleeking? ?) |
| 46. why; | 392. better; |
| 54. them, | 399. then. (than. cf. l. 281) |
| 63. Fo 1 | 411. Who worth (The worst ?) |
| to you. (you to.?) | 418. He fireth in. |
| 90. would | 429. soyt; |
| 94. pascions; (pascion;) | 436. T, Tiler. |
| 99. gossipand (gossip and) | 447. thon |
| 112. as light (asl ight T.C.C.) | 466. of (of) |
| 116. toyl, (tile,?) | 486. thy (the) |
| 147. witha (?) | 497. hood (good) |
| 156. Laron. (Lacon.) | 510. never (ne ver B.M., Bodl.) |
| 157. it there: (your chere:?) | 513 c.w. Tipple (<i>Tipple</i> ,) |
| 169. here; | 514. How (how) |
| 171. hot, | 515. Wouldst |
| 175. (a mark like ! after this line
probably accidental) | 524. Will |
| 198. you; | 533. Strife. (<i>wrongly repeated</i>) |
| 200. tmbling. | 535. woundey (wounded) |
| 203. kuaves | 536. back (black?) |
| 205. we | 539. watched |
| (s.d. belongs to l. 206) | 543. ueuer |
| 229. smile, (comma doubtful) | 551. you, |
| 241. yet, | 552. y ou |
| 246. dyink to you. (dyink you.?
cf. ll. 213-4) | 553. perhaps, (perhap,) |
| 249. What (what) | 555. yon |
| 309. Tom. | 557. wite (?) |
| 316. habe 2 | 565. ones, ! |
| 319. care, (comma doubtful) | 570. me a so (me so ?) |
| 324. guides (grides ?) | 571. T, Tyler. |
| 329. of (f damaged) | me, |
| 349. aud | 574. ill (all ?) |
| | 579. mnych |
| | 582. me, tho (me tho, ?) |

589. tault (?)
 593. striking.
 594. the
 603. *W* ith (?)
 611. *W* hen (when)
 627. *th* alt
 abide (abie)
 630. co (to)
 644. he had . . . he had
 648. pon
 649. you (so B.M., *p* defaced in
 Bodl. and T.C.C.)
 650. Tayler, (Tyler,?)
 659. Stri e.
 683. pin.
 686. then (than)
 687. it,
 692. *beaten* (*beaten*)
 702. *Thomas* (*Tom*)
 718. godlige (godilge? i.e. god
 yield ye)
 merrie (merrie)
 732. withme.
 740. *Definie* (first *i* doubtful)
 741. libe.
 744. death.
 748. passion (passon.)
 749-50. (wrongly indented)
 750. deny (denay?)
 763. follie.
 804. *Hap* good hap, will, (*Hap*
 that hap will,?)
 809. *Strife*.
 815. withknaves.
 819. payer (payer?)
 822. you.
 827. *h*aul, (comma doubtful)
 836. too too
 841. to
 844. ont
 850. tayler
 851. tpler
 853. bid (i.e. bide)
 864. kinde. (kinde)
 867. kist,
 869. me,
 875. coale (coale.)
 876. (not indented)
 879. *Desteny* (*Desteny*).
 c.w. Desteny
 (880. Destenie.)
 882. (not indented)
 891. all. (period doubtful)

On page 9 the page-number is misplaced, on p. 22 it is misprinted 27.

A list of the characters appears on the verso of the title-page.

TOM TYLER

AND

His Wife.

AN EXCELLENT OLD
PLAY,

AS

It was *Printed* and *Acted* about a
hundred Years ago.

The second Impression.



LONDON,

Printed in the Year, 1661, 6



16 **TOM TYLER**

AND

His Wife.

AN EXCELLENT OLD

P L A Y,

AS

It was *Printed* and *Acted* about a
hundred Years ago.

Together, with an exact *Catalogue* of all the plays
that were ever yet printed,

The second Impression.

Anonym.



LONDON,

Printed in the Year, 1661.



Tom Tyler and his Wife.

¶ THE PROLOGUE.

MY dutie first in humble wise fulfill'd,
I humbly come, as humbly as I am will'd,
To represent, and eke to make report,
That after me you shall hear merrie sport.
To make you joy and laugh at merrie toyes,
I mean a play set out by prettie boyes.
Whereto we crave your silence and good will,
To take it well: although he wanted skill
That made the same so perfectly to write,
As his good will would further and it might.
The effect whereof it boots not to recite,
For presently yee shall have it in sight.
Nor in my head such cunning doth consist,
They shall themselves declare it as they list.
But my good will I promised them to do,
Which was to come before to pray of you,
To make them room, and silence as you may,
Which being done, they shall come in to play.

Here entreth in Destinie and Desire.



Represent the part that men report,
To be a plague to men in many a sort.
Destinie. I am, which as your Proverbs go,
In wedding or hanging am taken for a so,
Where as indeed the truth is nothing so.
Be it well or ill as all things hap in due.

The praise or dispraise ought not to be mine.

Desire. I am glad I met you.

Destinie. Whither set you?

Desire. I set I tell you true, to seek and see you,

To tell you such netwes, as I cannot chuse.

Destinie. I pray you what is that?

Desire. Sirra know you not Tom Tyler your man?

Destinie. Yes Harry, what than?

Desire. He made sute to me, his friend for to be,

To get him a wife, to lead a good life.

And so I consented, and was well contented,

A 2

To

TOM TYLER

AND

His Wife.

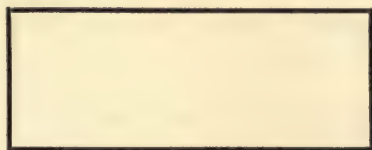
AN EXCELLENT OLD

P L A Y,

AS

It was *Printed* and *Acted* about a
hundred Years ago.

The second Impression.



LONDON,

Printed in the Year, 1661.

The names of the Players.

Destinie, A sage Parson.

Defire, The Vice.

Tom Tyler, A labouring Man.

Strife, *Tom Tylers* Wife.

Sturdie, A Gossip.

Typple, An Ale-wife.

Tom Tayler, An Artificer.

Patience, A sage Parson.

¶ THE PROLOGUE.

MY dutie first in humble wife fulfill'd,
 I humbly come, as humbly as I am will'd,
 To represent, and eke to make report,
 That after me you shall hear merrie sport.
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 Which was to come before to pray of you,
 To make them room, and silence as you may,
 Which being done, they shall come in to play.

10

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 To be a plague to men in many a sort.
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 Where as indeed the truth is nothing so.
 Be it well or ill as all things hap in fine,

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Desire. I am glad I met you.

Destinie. Whither set you?

Desire. I set I tell you true, to seek and see you,

30

To tell you such newes, as I cannot chuse.

Destinie. I pray you what is that?

Desire. Sirra know you not Tom Tyler your man?

Destinie. Yes Harry, what than?

Desire. He made sute to me, his friend for to be,

To get him a wife, to lead a good life.

And so I consented, and was well contented,

To help him to woo, with all I could do.
And married he is.

40 Destinie. But what for all this?

Desire. Marry that shall you know, his wife is a shrow,
And I hear tell, she doth not use him well.
Wherefore he speaks shame of thee and my name.

Destinie. If you so framed, to have your name blamed,
Or your deeds be noughtie, what am I faultie?
I know no cause why;

Desire. No more do I.
I did my good will, and though he sped ill,
I care not a flie.

50 Destinie. Let them two trie.

They match as they can, the wise and good man,
In wealth or in wo, as matters do go.
And let us not mind, their lot to unbind,
But rather forget them,

Desire. Marry so let them.
For as for my part, though it long to my Art
Hens hearts to inflame, their fancie to frame
When they have obtained, I am not constrained
To do any more.

60 Destinie. Content thee therefore,
And let thy heart rest, for so it is best.
And let us away, as fast as we may,
For fear he come to you.

Desire. Marry have with you. Here they both go in.

¶ Tom Tyler commeth in singing.
*The Proverb reporteth, no man can deny,
That wedding and hanging is destiny.*

A Song. I Am a poor Tyler in simple aray,
And get a poor living, but eight pence a day,

70 My wife as I get it, doth spend it away;
And I cannot help it, she saith; wot ye why,
For wedding and hanging is destiny.

I thought when I wed her, she had been a sheep,
At boord to be friendly, to sleep when I sleep.
She loves so unkindly, she makes me to weep; But

But I dare say nothing god wot, wot ye why ?
 For wedding and hanging is destiny.
 Besides this unkindnesse whereof my grief grows,
 I think few Tylers are matcht with such throws;
 Before she leaves brawling, she falls to deal blows 80
 Which early and late doth cause me cry,
 That wedding and hanging is destiny.
 The more that I please her, the worse she doth like me,
 The more I forbear her, the more she doth strike me,
 The more that I get her the more she doth glike me ;
 No worth this ill Fortune that maketh me crye
 That wedding and hanging is destinie.
 If I had been hanged when I had been married,
 My torments had ended, though I had miscarried;
 If I had been warned, then would I have tarried ; 90
 But now all to lately I feel and crye,
 That wedding and hanging is destinie.

The song ended, Tom Tyler speaketh

T. Tiler. You see with what fashion I plead my passions ;
 By marryng of Strife, which I chose to my wife,
 To leade such a life, with sorrow and grief,
 As I tell you true, is to bad for a Jew.
 She hath such skill, to do what she will,
 To gossipand to swill, when I fare but ill.
 I must work soze, I must get some more, 100
 I must still lend it, and she will still spend it,
 I pray God amend it, but she doth not intend it.
 What should I say, but hys me away,
 And do my work duly, where ich am paid truly ?
 For if my wife come, up goeth my homme,
 And she should come hither, and we met together,
 I know we shall fight, and eke scratch and bite.
 I therefore will go hie me, and to my work plie me,
 As fast as I can.

Here Tom Tyler goeth in, and his wife cometh out. 110

Strife. Alasse silly man ;
 What a husband have I, as light as a flie ?
 I leap and I skip, I carry the whip,

And

- And I hear the bell; If he please me not well,
 I will take him by the pole, by cocks precious soul
 I will make him to toil, when I laugh and smile;
 I will fare of the best, I will sit and take rest,
 And make him to find all things to my mind.
 And yet sharp as the wind, I will use him unkind,
 120 And fain my self sick; there is no such trick,
 To dolt with a Daw, and keep him in awe.
 I will teach him to know the way to Dunmoe.
 At boyd and at bed, I will crack the knaves head,
 If he look but awry, or cast a sheeps eye:
 So shall I be sure, to keep him in ure,
 To serve like a knave, and live like a slave.
 And in the mean season, I will have my own reason;
 And no man to controule me, to pil or to pole me,
 Which I love of life.
- 130 Sturdie. God speed gossip Strife. Sturdie entreth.
 Strife. Well met Goodwife Sturdie, both welcom and
 And ever I thank ye. worthie
 Sturdie. I pray you go prank ye,
 Ye are dew old huddle.
 Strife. The Pigs in the puddle.
 But now welcome indeed, and ye be agreed,
 Let us have some chat.
 Sturdie. Harry why nat?
 For I am come hither, to gossip together,
 140 For I drank not to day.
 Strife. So I hear say.
 But I tell you true, I thought not of you,
 Yet the ale-wife of the Swan, is filling the Can,
 With spice that is fine, and part shall be thine,
 If that thou wilt tarrie.
 Sturdie. Why, yes by Saint Mary;
 Else were I a fool. *Here entreth Tipple, with a*
 Tip. Harrie here is good rule. *pot in her hand, and a piece*
 A sight of good guelle. *of Bacon.*
- 150 Strife. Never a one lesse, now Tipple is come.
 Tipple. And here is good bum, I dare boldly say.
 Sturdie.

Sturdie. Why had not I some of this tother day?

Tipple. Make much of it now, and glad that ye may.
Come, where shall we sit? and here is a bit
Of a Gammon of Bacon.

Strife. Well said by Laron.

Sit down eben here, and fall to it there:

I would it were better for ye;

As long lides a merry heart as a sorye.

Tipple. Where is Tom Tiler now, where is he?

160

Strife. What carest thou where a dolt should be.

And where is your good man?

Tipple. Forsooth nought at home, he is abrod for pence.

Sturdie. Well, I had need to go hence,

Least my good man do misse me.

Strife. I would teach him John come kisse me,

If the dolt were mine.

Sturdie. Alas are you so fine!

Would God in all your chere, Tom Tiler saw you here;

Strife. What and if he did?

170

Tipple. Harrie God forbid, the house would be too hot,

Strife. Now by this pewter pot,

And by this drinke I will drinke now,

God knows what I think now.

Sturdie. What think you Gossip Strife?

Strife. I had rather then my life,

My husband would come hither,

That we might busk together,

We should see how I could tame him.

Tipple. Alas, and could ye blame him,

180

If that he were displeased?

Strife. He shall be soon appeased,

If either he gaspeth or glometh.

Tom Tiler

cometh in.

Sturdie. By gods blew hood he cometh.

Away, by the Halls away, he will us all else fray.

Tom. These summer daies he verie dye.

Strife. Yea, that is a devil a lie.

A knave, what dost thou here?

Tom. Ich should have a pot of beer, & go to worke again.

Strife.

- 190 Strife. *Pea knabe, shall honest men*
Go hire thee by the day, and thou shalt go away,
To loyter to and fro? I will teach thee for to know
How fast the houres go. One, two, and thre.
 T. Tiler. *I pray thee let be.* *She beateth him.*
 Strife. *Four, five and six; Lord, that I had some sticks,*
I would clapper claw thy bones,
To make you tell your stones,
The woxler while I know you;
 T. Tiler. *Good wife I beshrew you;*
 200 *I pray you leaue rnmbling.*
 Strife. *Pea knabe are you mumbling?*
Hence ye knabe hence, bring me home pence,
Afoze ye go to bed, or I will break your kuabes head,
Till the blood go about.
 T. Tiler. *Now our Lord keep me out,* *Tom Tiler goeth out.*
From this wicked wife.
 Sturdie. *Why, how now Strife? here is prettie rule;*
 Strife. *Hold your peace fool, it is no news for me;*
Let this talk be, and fall to your chere.
 210 Tipple. *Here is good beer, quaff and be merrie.*
 Strife. *I am half wearie with chiding alreadie.*
 Sturdie. *Keep your brains steddie,*
And fall to your drinking.
 Tipple. *Pay fall to singing, and let us go dance.*
 Strife. *By my troth chance, and let us begin,*
Rise up gollips, and I will bring you in.

¶ Here they sing.

Tom Tiler, Tom Tiler,
More mortar for Tom Tiler.

- 220 **A**s many as match themselves with shrowes, *Strife*
May hap to carrie away the blowes, *singeth this staff.*
Tom Tiler, Tom Tiler.
 As many a Tyde both ebs and flowes,
 So many a misfortune comes and goes,
Tom Tiler, Tom Tiler.

Though

Tom Tyler and his Wife.

7

Tipple *singeth* Though Tilers clime the house to tile,
this staffe. They must come down another while,

Tom Tiler, Tom Tiler.

Though many a one do seem to smile,
When Geese do wink, they mean some gile,

230

Tom Tiler, Tom Tiler.

Sturdie *singeth* Though Tom be stout, and Tom be strong,
this staffe. Though Tom be large, and Tom be long,

Tom Tiler, Tom Tiler.

Tom hath a wife will take no wrong,

But teach her Tom another song.

Here they end singing,
and Tipple speaketh.

Tom Tiler, Tom Tiler.

Tipple. Alas poor Tom, his Cake is dow.

Sturdie. Ye may see what it is to meet with a snow.
And now we have soong this merry fit,

240

Let us now leabe gossiping yet,

Strife. Hold your peace fooles, ye have no wit

Fill in and spare not, twill in, I care not.

This drinke is ipse, to make us all tiple.

And now gossip Sturdie, if I may be so worthie,

Half this I drinke to you.

Sturdie. The headache will sting you, I fear me anon,
Therefore let us be gone, I heartily pray you.

Strife. Tipple, What say you, will you drinke no more?

Tipple. I have tippled soe I promise you plain,

250

Yet once and no more, have at you again.

Strife. Ho, pray God, ho.

Sturdie. So, So, So, So.

Here they sing again.

Another Song.

The Mill a, the Mill a,

So merily goes the mery Mill a.

Let us up, and let it slip,
And go which way it will a,

B

Let

260 Let us trip, and let us skip,
 And let us drink our fill a.
 Take the cup, and drink all up,
 Give me the can to fill a:
 Every sup, and every cup,
 Hold here, and my good will a.
 Gossip mine, and Gossip thine,
 Now let us Gossip still a:
 Here is good wine, this Ale is fine,
 Now drink of which you will a.
 270 Round about, till all be out,
 I pray you let us swill a:
 This jelly grout, is jelly and stout;
 I pray you stout it still a.
 Let us laugh, and let us quaff,
 Good drinkers think none ill a:
 Here is your bag, here is your staffe,
 Be packing to the mill a.

Here they end singing, and *Tipple* speaketh first.

Tipple. So merily goes the merie mill a;
 280 Hold, here is my can.
 Sturdie. Nay I bestow my hart than,
 I must depart, therefore adew.
 Strife. Then tarrie and take us all with you.
 Come Gossips, come. Here they go all in, and
 Tom Tyler cometh out.

T. Tiler. I am a tiler as you see, a simple man of my de-
 (gree,
 Yet many have need of me, to keep them clean and drie;
 And specially in the Summer time
 290 To pin their tiles, and make their lime,
 And tile their houses to keep out rain,
 Being well rewarded for my pain.
 And where I work by week or day,
 I truly earn it and they truly pay;
 I would desire no better life;

Except

Except that God would change my wife.

If she were gone, and I were free,

What tiler then were like to mee?

For howsoever I travel, she uses me like a Javel,

And goeth from house to house, as drunk as a mouse; 300

Gibing and granting, checking and taunting,

Bagging and haunting, flouting and flaunting.

And when I come home, she makes me a mome;

And cuts my comb, like a hop on my thomb,

With contrary biting too dear of reciting.

But this is the end, if I could get a friend

Some council to give me, you would not believe me

How glad I would be.

Enter Tom Tayler.

T. Tailer. The wiser man he. Tom. Tiler how now?

T. Tiler. Tom Tayler, how dost thou?

310

Tayler. After the old sort, in mirth and jolly sport,
Tayler-like I tell you.

T. Tyler. Ah sirra I smell you.

You have your hearts ease, to do what you please,

But I have heard tell, that you have the hell.

Tayler. Marrie that is well. But what if I have?

T. Tiler. May not I crave one friendly good turn,

While the fire doth burn, to put my wife to such ill fare?

Tayler. In faith I do not care,

But what meanest thou by this?

320

T. Tiler. To live in some blisse, and be rid of my wife.

Tayler. Why are you at strife, what is the cause?

T. Tiler. When I come in her claws,

She guides me for ever; but help me now or never,

As I told thee before,

Put her in hell, and I care for no more.

Tayler. Why foolish knave, what hell should I have?

With a wild evil am I a Devil?

Thou art out of thy wit.

T. Tiler. No hum say not yet, though I am vext with a 330

(sit

Of a liberal wife, that will shorten my life.

And thou be no devil, take it not evil;
 For I heard tell, that thou hast a hell.
 And I have a wife, so devilish in strife,
 Which cannot do well, and therefore meeter for hell,
 Then here to remain.

Tayler. If the matter be so plain;
 Then what wilt thou say, if I find the way
 340 By words to intreat her, and after to beat her
 If she will not be ruled.

T. Tiler. She is so well schooled with too many blowes
 To receive any blowes, never think so.

Tayler. If she be such a throw, something at her throw.
 Stand to it foolish calf, I will be thy half.
 What will she fight?

T. Tiler. Hea her fingers be very light
 And that do I find, her checks be so unkind.
 Alwayes and ever, she is pleased never,
 350 But fuming and creating, buffeting and beating;
 Of this my silly coltard.

Tayler. A hoodson dostard. And what dost thou than?

T. Tiler. Like a poor man,
 Desiring her gently to let me live quietly.

Tayler. Now of mine honestie I like thee the better.
 And wouldest thou let her?

T. Tiler. Hea, and so would you, I tell you true,
 If you were in my case.

Tayler. Nay then by Gods grace,
 360 I will probe by your leave, if she can me deceive
 By any such sort, ye shall see a good sport.
 Put off thy coat and all thy apparel;
 And for thy quarrel I will make speed.
 And put on thy weed, come on and unray thee.

T. Tiler. And what now I pray thee.

Tayler. Come give me the rest.

T. Tiler. I wene you do jest. What mean you by this?

Tayler. No harm sir I wis.

Now get me a cudgel, this is wondrous well,
 370 Now am I well armed if now I be harmed,

I may chance to beguile her, for beating Tom Tiler ;
 Now Thomas my friend, this is the end ;
 You say your wife will fight, her fingers be so light ;
 If she have such delight, I will conjure the sprite,
 If she come neer, while I tarrie here.
 Therefore stand by, and when thou hearest me crie,
 Come help me to cheer me.

T. Tiler. Nay I must not come neer thee, Here Tom Tiler
 Be certain of that. goeth in a while.

Tayler. Well if you will not, make no more debating. 380

Strife. Ye Knave are ye prating? Enter Strife.

When you shouldest be at work, do you loiter and lark?

Take that for your labour.

Tayler. Nay faith by your labour I will pay you again,
 There is for me to requite your pain.

Strife. Ye Knave are you striking?

Tayler. Ye whores, are ye greeking?

Strife. In faith ye Knave I will cool you.

Tayler. In faith ye whores I will rule you.

Strife. Ye Knave are ye so fresh? 390

Tayler. Ye whores I will plague your flesh.

Strife. And I will displease thee a little better;

Tayler. And in faith I will not die thy debtor.

How now, how like you your match?

Strife. As I did ever, even like a Patch.

Ah Knave, wilt thou strike thy wife?

Tayler. Ye marriage, I love this gear alive.

Strife. Hold thy hand, and thou be a man.

Tayler. Kneel down and ask me forgiveness then.

Strife. Ah whoreson Knave my bones is sore. 400

Tayler. Ah unhappie whores; do so then no more.

Strife. I pray thee be still, thou shalt have thy will.

I will do so no more, I am sorry therefore.

I will never more strike, nor profer the like,

Alas I am killed.

Tayler. Nay thou art illwilled as thou hast been e-
 (ver.

But

But trouble me never, I advise thee again.

For I will braid thee then.

410 Now praise at thy parting.

Strife. No worth overhartering that ever I knew,
I am beaten so blew, and my gall is all burst.

I thought at the first he had been a dolt.

But I hidled a Colt of a contrarie hare,

Soure sauce is now my chear.

Therefore I will away, for I get nought by this play;

And get me to bed, and dress up my head.

I am so sore beaten with blowes.

He fireth in.

Tayler. It is hard matching with shoves.

420 I see well enough the Damsel was tough,

And loth for to bend. But I think in the end

I made her to bow. But where is Tom now?

That he may know how all matters do stand.

T. Tiler enters. T. Tiler. Here sit at hand. How now

(Tom Tayler?)

Tayler. Much ado to quail her.

But I beleve my girds do her grieve,

I dare be bold, she longs not to scold,

For use her old sport, in such devilish sort;

430 T. Tiler. I pray thee why so?

Tayler. I have made her so wo, so black and so blew,

I have changed her hew and made her to bend;

That to her lives end she will never offend

In word nor in deed. Therefore now take heed

She strike thee no more.

T. Tiler. I sh will stroke thee therefore;

And Tom God a mercy.

Tayler. She looked aslie versie at her first coming in,

And so did begin with lowing of shoves,

440 And fell to fair blowes.

But then I behide me, and she never spide me;

What I was I am sure. Therefore get thee to her;

And get thee to bed, whatsoever is said

And care not a straw, for thou hast her in awe.

She

She is so well beaten, she dare not once threaten,
Nor give thee any ill word at bed and at boord,
But grunting and groning, thou shalt find her moning
Her piteous case with a saint Johns face,
I warrant well painted, for I stroke till she fainted,
And paid her for all eber,
Till she said she would never be churlish again.

450

T. Tiler. Let me alone with my damsel then;
And if I be able, without any fable
I will quit thee.

Taylor. If she crossebite thee,
Hence forth evermore, beswinge her therefore,
And keep her up hoort, from all her old sport.
And she will not be ruled, let her be cooled.

T. Tiler. But I dare say, she will think of this day,
All her life long.

460

Taylor. Shall we have then a good song,
For joy of this glee betwixt her and thee?

T. Tiler. By my troth if you will, I shall fulfil
As much as I can.

Taylor. Let us sing than
The tying of the Mare, that went out of square.

T. Tiler. By my troth any you dare, go to begin.

Here they sing.

*Tie, tie, tie the mare, tie,
Lest she stray from thee away;
Tie the mare Tomboy.*

470

Tom Tiler singeth.

TOM might be merrie, and well might fare,
But for the haltering of his Mare,
Which is so wicked to sling and flie,
Go tie the mare Tomboy, tie the mare, tie.

Tom Tailer singeth.

Blame not Thomas if Tom be sick,
His mare doth prounce, his mare doth kick;

She

480 She snorts and holds her head so hie,
Go tie the mare Tomboy, tie the mare, tie.

Tom Tiler singeth.

If Tom erie hayt, or Tom erie hoe,
 His mare will straight gibe Tom a bloe.
 Where she doth bait, Tom shall abie.
Go tie thy mare Tomboy, tie the mare, tie.

Tom Tayler singeth.

Tom if thy mare do make such sport,
 I gibe thee counsel to keep her short.
 490 If she be coltish, make her to erie.
Go tie the mare Tomboy, tie the mare, tie.

Here they end singing, and Tom Tayler first speaketh.

Tayler. Well now to your charge,
 Let her run no more at large.
 But now she is so well framed,
 If she do ill you must be blamed,
 Therefore take hood heed.

T. Tiler. Yes that I will indeed.
 And I thank you for your pain,
 500 As I am bound I tell you plain.

Tayler. Well Thomas fare you well, *Tom Tayler goeth in.*
 Till you come where I do dwell.

T. Tiler. Ah sirra this is trim, that my wife is coold
 (by him.)

I marvel how she took the matter;
 And how she will look when I come at her;
 And whether she be well or sick;
 For my part I doe not sick
 To do my dutie as I ought,
 510 Yet will I never die for thought,
 I will go hie me home.

Tom Tyler goeth in.

Here entereth Sturdie and Tipple.

Sturdie. Farewell good honest mome.

Tipple

Tipple, How likest thou this match?
Wouldst thou have thought the Patch,
Would have beat his wife so black and blew from top to
(toe)

Being such a simple fool?

Tipple. Belike he hath learned in a new school
Whereat I cannot chuse but lasse, 520
The still Sow eateth up all the drasse.
Beware of such wily Pies.

Sturdie. But he, an he be wise,
Will seek some way to rook him.

Tipple. It is too late to break him, if now he get the
(better.

Sturdie. If she can do so, let her;
I dare be bold to say, she will do what she may.

Lo here she cometh creeping,

Alas for wo and weeping,

The truth will now appear.

Enter *Strife* fair and 530
softly, wailing and
weeping.

Strife. Alas and well away.

Strife. How ill have I been used, my bones be all to
(bruised.

My flesh is plagued bily, and my head is woundey bily.

My arms be back and blew, and all my sides be new.

Sturdie. Though all this be with you Gossip, discom-
(fort never.

Tipple. He watched ye once for ever.

But trust his hands no more. 540

Strife. Alas I am so sore,

I can neither stand nor sit, but am beside my wit;

And uever well apaid, till that I may be laid

To ease me on my bed.

Sturdie. Bind this about your head,
And hardly lay you down, we must into the town;
And after that, surely then we will come to you again;
And I pray you be of good cheer.

Tipple. I am sorrie to see you here 550
In such unhappie case, but take some heart of grace,

Good Gossip I pray you,

Strife. Alas neighbours, I stay y ou
from your businesse perhaps, but I will take a nap,
If I can where I lie.

Sturdie. Then we will see you again by and by.

Sturdie and Tipple goeth out, and Tom Tiler cometh in.

T. Tiler. I heard say my wife is abominable sick,
Indeed she was beat with an unhappie stick,
Gods, look where she lies, close with her eyes,
560 That is well said I will get me to bed,
And lay me hard by her, and yet not too nise her,
For feare I awake her, a good yeare take her,
For using me so.

Strife. Out alas, O, O,
My bones, my bones, fall in peeces at ones, !
Alas, alas, I die. O husband, husband why,
Why have you done so ? I was never your foe,
So much as you make me, and so you may take me,
If I have you offended, it shall be amended.
570 Alas wherefore should ye beate me a so soare ?

T, Tyler. You would be still never, but buffet me,
(ever,

And Gossip at will, when I must work still.
And take ill your pleasure, and braul without measure
And now you may see, as the old sayings bee,
God sendeth now, short hoynes to a curst Cow.
I come home merrily, when you sit berely
Lowing and pouting, knowing and lowting.
And I was your noddie, as much as no body.

580 Strife. Alas what than, you being a man,
Should beare with my folly, and you being holly,
Might counsel me, tho not beating me so.
I thought I should find, you loving and kinde,
And not of this minde.
For us to war foes, for such crewel blowes,
I tell you plaine, I married my bane,

When

When I married thee, as far as I see.

T. Tiler. Wife I am sorry, this ill is befallne ye.

But I tell you true, the fault was in you.

For till this day, I dare boldly say,

I never did proffer you such an offer ;

It was your owne seeking.

Strife. I beshrew such striking.

So close by the ribs, you may strike your ribs

So, well enough.

T. Tiler. This rage and this ruffe

Need not to be, wife if ye love me,

Let us agree, in love and amitie,

And do so no more, I am sorry therefore.

I take God to my judge, that ever this grudge,

Should happen to be, between you and me.

Strife. Alas, I may mone I might have been woone

With half these strokes, but curtnesse provokes

Kind hearts to discever, and hatred for ever

Most commonly growes, by dealing of blowes.

Therefore blame not me, if I cannot love ye ;

While we two have life.

T. Tiler. By my halp dome Wife ;

Because you say so, now shall ye know

If you will content you, that I do lament you.

For I will tell you true, When I saw you

Ever brawling and fighting, and ever crossebiting,

Which made me still wo, that you should thus do ;

At last hereafter, I complaind the matter

To Tom Tayler my Master, who taking a waster

Did put on my coat, since ye will needs know it ;

And so being disguised, he interprised

To come in my stead ; and having my weed

You pleading your passion after the old fashion ;

Thinking it was I, stroke him by and by,

Then straight did he in stead of me,

Currie your bones, as he said for the nones,

To make you obey.

590

600

610

620

Strife. Is it even so as you say?

Gods sith you Knave, did you send such a slave
To revenge your quarrel in your apparel?

Thou shalt abide as dearlie as I.

I thought by this place, thou hadst not the face
To beat me so sore. Have at thee once more.

630 I now war fresh to plague a Knaves flesh
That hath so plagued me, for everie blow thee.
Be sure I will pay you, till you do as I would have you.
Ah whorson Dolt, thou whorson subtle Colt;
Son of an Ore, how like you your knocks?
The pils and the por, and the poison in box
Consume such a Knave, and bring him to grave.
The Crows and the Pies, and the verie flesh flies
Desire to plague thee. In faith I will plague thee.

T. Tiler. O wife, wife, I pray thee save my life.

640 You hurt me ever, I hurted you never,
For Gods sake content thee.

Strife. Nay thou shalt repent thee,
That ever Tom Tayler, that Ruffian and railer
Was set to beat me, he had better he had eat me;
I hope for to find some toller so kind
To currie that Knave, for the old grudge I have,
As now I do thee; there is one more for me.
Kneel down on your knee, you hoddie doddee;
I will make you to stoop, though you set cock on hoop
650 For joy of Tom Tayler, that he could beguile her.
Take that for her sake, some mirth for to make,
Like an ass as you be.

T. Tiler. Why should you strike me
For another mans fault?

Strife. Because thou art naught,
And he a vile Knave.

*Enter Sturdie
and Tipple.*

Sturdie. What more can ye have?
Enough is enough, as good as a feast.

Strife. He shall bear me one cuff yet more like a beast.

660 Tipple. Gossip content thee, and strike him no more.

T. Tiler.

T. Tiler. All the world wonders upon her therefore.

Sturdie. Away neighbour Thomas out of her sight.

T. Tiler. Alas she hath almost kild me out right.

I will rather die then see her again. Go in T. Tiler.

Strife. I promise you, I have a great losse then,

How like ye now this last overthwarting?

It is an old saying, piasse at the parting.

I think I have made the Cullion to wyng.

I was not beaten so black and blew,

But I am sure he has as many new. 670

My heart is well eased, and I have my wish,

This chafing hath made me as whole as a fish.

And now I dare holdly be merrie again.

Sturdie. By saint Mary you are the happier then.

My neighbour and I, might hap to abide,

If we should so do, as he suffereth you;

But we commend you.

Strife. I can now intend you,

To laugh and to quaff, and lay down my staff,

To dance or to sing. 680

Tipple. There were no such thing, after this madness.

Sturdie. And ye say it in sadness,

Let us set in, on a merrie pin.

The storie of the strife, between Tom and his wife,

As well as we can.

Strife. Shall I begin then to set you both in?

For I can best do it,

Sturdie. Now I pray thee go to it.

Here they sing.

Hey derie, hoe derie, hey derie dan, 690

The Tylers wife of our Town,

Hath beaten her good man.

A Song.

TOm Tiler was a trifeler,
And fain would have the skill

To

To practise with Tom Tayler,
To break his Wives will.

Tom Tayler got the victorie,

Till Tylers Wife did know,

700 It was a point of subtiltie ;

Then Tom was beat for wo.

Thomas Tilers Wife said evermore

I will full merrie make,

And never trust a man no more

For Thomas Taylers sake.

But if Tom Tiler give a stroke,

Perhaps if he be stout,

He shall then have his costard hoke,

Till blood go round about.

710 Though some be sheep, yet some be shrowes,

Let them be fools that lust :

Tom Tilers wife will take no blows,

No more then needs she must.

If Tom be wise, he will beware,

Before he make his match,

To do no further then he dare,

Here they end

For fear he prove a Patch.

singing.

Strife. Gossips, godlike for this merrie song ;

Pray God we may long keep such merrie glee.

720 Sturdie. We marrie say we,

God grant all wives, to lead the like lives

That you do now.

Tipple. I know not how that may come to passe,
But by the Masse, good handling doth much.

Strife. For a fair touch my will shall not want.

Sturdie. Would God I could plant,

My eye-lids in such sort, to make such a sport,

And live so at ease, to do what I please.

Tipple. Alwaies the Seas

730 Be not like mild, but wanton and wild

Sometime more higher, then need shall require ;

So may the hap be with you and withme.

Strife.

Strife. Let all this be, for we will agree,
And let us away, for I dare say,
Tom Tiler is gone to make his mone,
After these strokes, like a wise Coaks;
But all is one.

Sturdie. Come let us be gone it is time for to go.

Tipple. I think it be so; come on, have with you.

Here they go in, and Tom Tayler, Tom Tiler, and Destinie enter. 740

T. Tiler. If Destinie drive poor Tom for to live.
For ever in strife with such an ill wife;
Then Tom may complain, no more to remain
Here on the earth, but rather with death.
For this is too bad.

Tayler. Why, how now my lad, what news with thee?

T. Tiler. In faith as ye see.

After the old fashion, pleading on passion

If Fortune will it, I must fulfil it.

If Destinie say it, I cannot deny it.

750

Destinie. For I cannot stay it.

For when thou wast born, thy luck was forlorn.

Therefore content thee, and never repent thee.

T. Tayler. I cannot lament thee.

For I am sure you know, I charmed your shrow,

With such cruel blowes, by the faith that now goes

I thought she would die.

T. Tiler. Then happie were I.

Tayler. And a good cause why,

But you may now go for bacon to Dunmo.

760

T. Tiler. Yet fain would I know, of Destinie now;

How long and how my life shall it passe.

Tayler. Why foolish alle, that were but a follie.

For he is too hollie to tell any news.

Destinie. I do not use, to tell ore I strike,

I suddenly gleek, ore men be aware.

Tayler. Then I can declare if I look in thy hand,

How thy fortune will stand. Hold forth thy fist.

T. Tiler.

T. Tiler. Here, do what ye list.

770 Tayler. By my troth I will it, and have not mist it.

He striketh him on the cheek.

By the sign that here goes, you are boyn to take blowes.

Carrie, let me look again.

Tom Tyler. Nay beshrew my heart then.

Tayler. Aske Destinie hereby, and I make a lie.

Destinie. No, you do not indeed.

T. Tyler. Then I will change my weed,
And tyle it no more, if my chance be so sore,
As you two doe make it.

780 Destiny. We do not mistake it,
Thereof be you hold, and this hope you may hold,
If your fortune bee to hang on a tree,
Fife foot from the ground, ye shall never be drownd.
So if you be bozne, to hold with the horne,
Howsoever your wise set it, you cannot let it.
And if you leade an ill life, by chance of your wise,
Take this for verity, all is but your destiny.
And though your deedes probe naught,
Yet am I not in fault.

790 T. Tiler. Then let me be taught, how to eschew,
Such dangers as you, enforce to a man.

Destiny. Wea, but who can instruct you thereon?
For all is no more then I have said before.
But howsoever it be, learn this of me,
If you take it not ill, but with a good will,
It shall never grieve you.

Tayler. No faith, I believe you,
That is even all. He that loves thyall,
It were pittie he should lack it.

800 T. Tyler. Then I must pack it
Between the coat and the skin,
As my fortune hath been ever yet in my life,
Since I am married with strife,
Hap good hap, will, hap good, hap evil;
Even hap as hap may.

Tayler.

Tayler. That is a wise way.

Never set at thy heart, thy wifes churlish part,
That she sets at her heel, such sorrows to feel.

It would grieve any Saint.

Enter Strife.

Strife. Take a pencil, and paint your words in a table, 810
That the foole may be able to know what to doe.

Desteny. Here is one comes to woo,

By the Masse I will not tary.

Desteny goeth in.

Strife. I would it were muskadine for ye,

To stand prating with knaves.

Tayler. Hark how she raves, she longues for a whip.

Strife. He saith good man blabberlip.

You pricklouse knave you, have you nothing to do
At home with your shreds? a prayer of wise heads
I promise you you have. But you doltish knave,
Come home, or I will fetch you. 820

Tayler. Now a halter stretch you.

And them that sent you.

Enter Patience.

Patience. Good friendes, I pray you content you.
Whence cometh this strife, I pray thee good wife?
Be patient for all.

Strife. And shall the knave haul,

And make discord to be, betweene my husband and me.

Patience. Why so? are you he

That setteth debate, and disposed to prate? 830

I pray you be still.

Tayler. Harry with a good will.

As God shall save me, I did behave me

As well as might bee, as these folkes did see.

Till this gigish dame, into this place came

But she is too too bad.

Patience. And I count him mad,

That for any fit, will compare his wit,

And with a foolish woman to wander,

He is as wise as a Gander. 840

You are too much to blame, and you to for shame,

Leave your old canker, and let your sheet anker

Be alwayes to hold, where I patience am bold
 If things hap awry, to fall ont by and by,
 It doth not agree, though Desteny be
 Unfriendly to some, as he hits all that come,
 In wealth and in wo, I am sure you know,
 There should be no strife, betweene man and wife
 And thus my tale endes, I would have you all friends
 850 And I would have Tom tayler to be no rayler,
 For Tom tyled to chide, which I cannot abide.
 For his wife for to shew, any pranks of a shrew.

T. Tyler. Ich would god it were so, for I bid the wo.
 Ich wish it for my part, eben with all my heart.
 For howsoever it goes, I beare the blowes,
 Which I tell you I like not.

Tayler. Though I chide, I strike not,
 Your Masterhip doth see.

Strife. I beshrew his knaves heart, that last stroke me.

860 Patience. Well once againe let this foolishness be.
 And as I told you, so I pray you hold you,
 For I will not away, till I set such a stay,
 To make you gree friendly, that now chafe unkindly.
 Come on Strife I finde, your churlish kinde.
 You must needes bridle, if it be possible,
 For els it were vaine, to take any paine.
 Take Tom by the fist, and let me see him kist,

Strife. If Patience intreat me,

I will though Tom beate me,

870 T. Tyler. Well wife, I thanke you.

Patience. Nay whither away prank you?
 Tom Tayler also, shall you kifs ere you go,
 And see you be friends.

Strife. I would he had kist both the endes.

Tayler. Nay, there a hoate coale

Patience. Now see this wilde foale.

Be quiet I pray you, for therefore I stay you.
 And Desteny to thee, thou must also agree,
 As well as the rest.

Enter Desteny

Desteny

Destenie. I think it so best.	Now speak altogether, except	880
Be you agreed all?	<i>Patience.</i>	
All speak. We are, and we shall.		
Patience. Then take hands, and take chauce,		
And I will lead the dance.		
Come sing after me, and look we agree.		

Here they sing this Song.

A Song.

Patience entreateth good fellows all,
 Where folly beateth to break their bratoll,
 Where wills be wilfull, and fortune thall,
 A patient party perswadeth all. 890

Though Strife be sturdy to move debate,
 As some unworthy have done of late.
 And he that worst may the candel carry,
 If Patience pray thee, do never barry.

If froward fortune hap so awrie,
 To make thee marry by Destenie,
 If fits unkindly do move thy mood,
 Take all things patiently, both ill and good.

Patience perforce if thou endure, 900
 It will be better thou mayest be sure,
 In wealth or wo, howsoever it ends,
 Wheresoeber ye go, be patient friends.

The end of this Song.

Here they all go in, and one cometh out, and singeth this Song
 following all alone with instruments, and all the rest with-
 in sing between every staffe, the first two lines.

The concluding Song.

910 *When sorrowes be great, and hap awry,
Let Reason intreat thee patiently.*

A Song.

Though pinching be a pible pain,
To want desire that is but vain.
Though some be curst, and some be kind
Subdue the worst with patient mind.

Who sits so hie, who sits so low?
Who feels such joy, that feels no wo?
When bale is bad, good boot is ny
Take all adventures patiently.

920 To marrie a sheep, to marrie a shrow,
To meet with a friend, to meet with a foe,
These checks of chance can no man use,
But God himself that rules the skie.

Which God preserve our Noble Queen,
From perillous chance that hath been seen,
And send her Subjects grace say I,
To serbe her Highnesse patiently.

God save the Queen.

PR
2411
T57
1910

Tom Tyler and his wife
Tom Tyler and his wife

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